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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,496	07/07/2003	Eric Stephane Fourcault	80350-1100	6363
24504	7590	02/20/2007	EXAMINER	
THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP			PHILOGENE, PEDRO	
100 GALLERIA PARKWAY, NW				
STE 1750			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ATLANTA, GA 30339-5948				
			3733	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/20/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/614,496	FOURCAULT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Pedro Philogene	3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Siddiqui (6,306,140) in view of Sparkes (4,697,969).

With respect to claims 1,13, 15, Siddiqui discloses an osteosynthesis and compression screw for coaptation of small bone fragments, the screw being formed by a single longitudinal body having a longitudinal axis, and comprising a proximal portion formed by a screw head (5) provided with an outside thread, the proximal portion being of diameter greater than the diameter of the remainder of the screw, and intermediate portion (25) having no thread; and a distal portion (7) provided with an outside threads; as best seen in FIG.1., the terminal zero of the distal portion is provided with preparation means (29) for preparing a housing in the bone fragment for receiving the intermediate and distal portions of the screw.

It is noted that Siddiqui did not teach of a each of the screw head and the distal portion includes at least one helical groove, firstly extending over the entire axial length of its threads, and secondly being formed through each thread in such a manner to form tapping means; as claimed by applicant. However, in the screw field, Sparkes evidences the use of a screw with at least one helical groove, firstly extending over the entire axial length of its threads, and secondly being formed through each thread in

such a manner to form tapping means to have exceptionally easy starting and insertion ability and to facilitate counter-sinking, and also reducing the danger of splitting the material being used.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Siddiqui, as taught by Sparkes to have exceptionally easy starting and insertion ability and to facilitate counter-sinking, and also reducing the danger of splitting the small bone fragments.

With respect to claims 3-12, 14,16-20, the above combination of references teaches all the limitations, such as, the angle being thirty degrees, the groove being constant, the variation of each groove, the increases of the grooves towards the terminal zone of the screw, the tooth extending substantially axially, the central longitudinal bore, as set forth in column 1, lines 60-68, column 2, lines 1-68; and as best seen in FIGS.1-8 of Sparkles; also as set forth in column 3, lines 40-67, column 4, lines 1-67, columns 5,6, 7, lines 1-67; and as best seen in FIGS.1-12 of Siddiqui.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 2/1/07, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1,3-11 under 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Siddiqui/Sparkes.

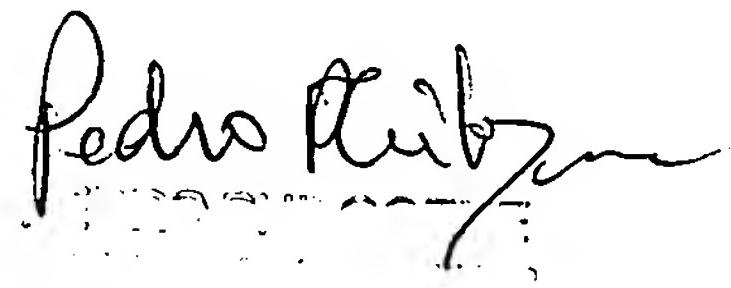
Conclusion

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro Philogene whose telephone number is (571) 272-4716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272 - 4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Pedro Philogene
February 12, 2007